BENGALURU, FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 2025 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

HAPPY VARAMAHALAKSHMI

TEMP Max 29 | Min 20 | Humidity 95% Generally cloudy sky with Light rain Sensex 80,623 | Nifty 24,596 | Gold 1,02,550 | Silver 1,17,000 | Dollar 87.70 | Euro 101.97 | GBP 117.26

As commuter's post prompts action against vehicle fitted with LED lights, experts raise caution on disability glare — condition where sudden brightness overwhelms drivers' eyes, reducing their ability to see and react

CITY OF BLINDING LIGHTS

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A recent social media post about a high-end SUV flashing red-blue LED lights has once again turned the spotlight on a growing menace, aftermarket high-intensity lights illegally fitted to private vehicles. The user, a commuter, posted on X thanking Jigani Police for swift action. Though he wasn't blinded, he stressed how these LED strobes can impair night vision. "Those LEDs hit the retina and cause temporary blindness," the user wrote.

Taking note, Bangalore District SP CK Baba responded, confirming, "Vehicle and occupant traced. Illegal flashing lights removed. Legal action initiated under the IMV Act." Police officials confirmed the SUV owner was penalised for violating traffic norms.

Traffic experts warn these high-intensity flashing lights can cause disability glare, a condition where the sudden brightness overwhelms a driver's eyes, reducing their ability to see and react. On dimly lit roads, the effect is worse, obscuring pedestrians, road hazards, or vehicles, and increasing the risk of accidents.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

WALK BAULK

Across the city, footpaths are slowly vanishing: Some are broken, others occupied by everything but pedestrians

CITY PAGE 4

Looker/Doer

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THINGS TO DO

01 Craft junction

The Indian Artisans' Haat, jointly organised by Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror, is bringing handlooms, textiles, jewellery, and decorative items from across India, presenting diverse cultural and artisanal heritage under one roof. **Where: Rangoli Metro Art Centre, MG Road; When: Until August 10**

02 Melody magic

Folk legend Mame Khan will be performing with his Rock N Roots Project, bringing his signature blend of Rajasthani folk, Sufi energy, and contemporary fusion. The show features iconic tracks like Kesariya Balam and Chaudhary, reimagined with a modern sound and full live band. **Where: Windmills, Whitefield; When: August 8 and 9, 7 pm**

03 Clinical insights

To mark the 20th anniversary of the Samvaad Institute of Speech and Hearing, a 2-day RCI-CRE approved hands-on workshop is being held to provide hands-on training in evidence-based clinical practices for aphasia rehabilitation. **Where: The United Theological College, Benson Town; When: August 8 and 9**

04 Floral muse

The 218th edition of the iconic Lalbagh Flower Show is featuring elaborate floral arrangements celebrating the valour of freedom fighters Kittur Rani Chennamma and Sangolli Rayanna. **Where: Lalbagh Botanical Garden, Mavalli; When: August 7 to 18 , 10 am**

05 Lightscapade

Shades of Green is presenting 'Songs of Nature', a special curation of lighting designs by Oorjaa. The immersive showcase highlights iconic pieces alongside a new collection inspired by the quiet intelligence of the natural world. **Where: Sabha, Kamaraj Road; When: August 8 to 13, 11 am to 7 pm**

06 Canvas chronicles

Sublime Galleria is presenting 'Charcoal in Stillness and Motion', an art exhibition featuring exquisite works by artist Gautam Bansal. **Where: Sublime Galleria, UB City; When: Open from August 8**

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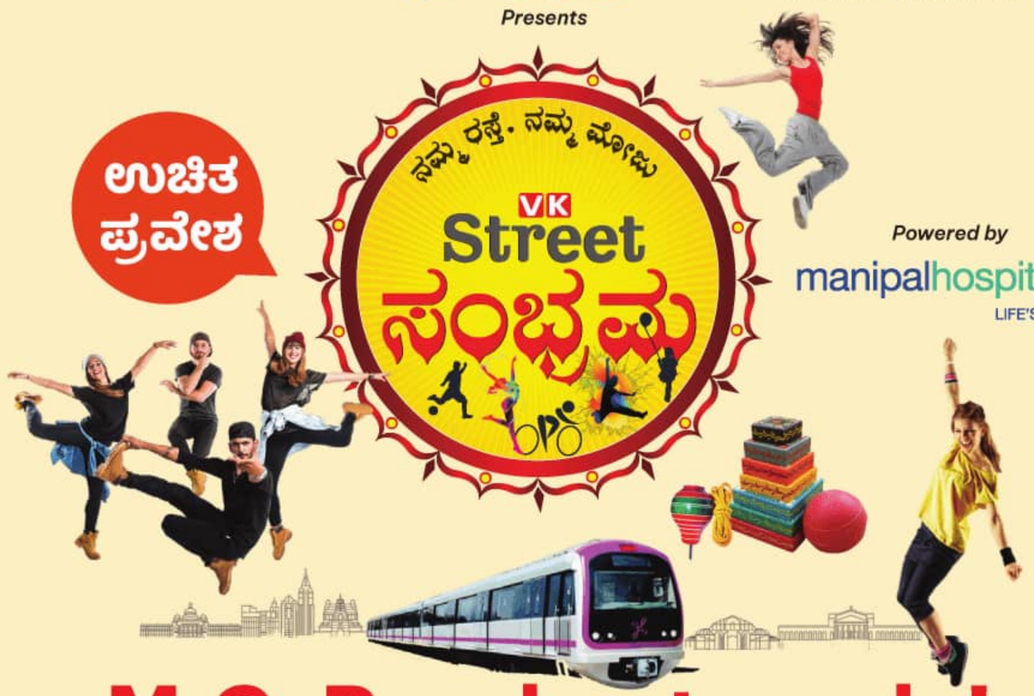

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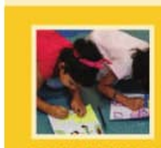
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Evening OPD services inaugurated

Veteran actor and Padma Bhushan awardee Dr Anant Nag inaugurated the evening OPD services at Medicover Hospitals by lighting the ceremonial lamp. The event was attended by Neeraj Lal, Regional Director – Karnataka & Maharashtra, Krishnamurthy, Hospital Head, Pramod, Marketing Head, along with specialist doctors, department heads, and staff members. Dr Anant Nag was felicitated by the hospital in recognition of his Padma Bhushan honour.

Bengaluru gears up for Varamahalakshmi Festival

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KAUSHIK JN

As Bengaluru prepares to celebrate the auspicious Varamahalakshmi festival this Friday, markets across the city are abuzz with activity. Despite a steep surge in flower and fruit prices, the festive spirit is running high. Shoppers, especially women, have been thronging prominent marketplaces like KR Market, Gandhi Bazaar, Yeshwanthpur, Madiwala, and Magadi Road since Tuesday, eager to make their purchases before prices climb even higher.

Sky-high flower rates

Flower prices in Bengaluru skyrocketed on Wednesday—shooting up nearly fourfold from last week. Chrysanthemums that cost Rs 100 to Rs 150 earlier were sold for Rs 600 to Rs 800, while Kanakambara touched Rs 1,800 per kg and jasmine soared up to Rs 1,600. Despite the gold-like prices, the city's markets—KR Market, Malleshwaram, Gandhi Bazaar and others—saw a massive turnout of women shoppers crowding for flowers, fruits, pooja items, and Lakshmi idols. Traders cited heavy rains as the reason for disrupted supply and rotting stock, leading to inflated prices. Even ready-made decorated Lakshmi idols were selling briskly for Rs 3,000 to Rs 5,000, with festive fervour clearly outweighing the pinch on pockets.

Rains disrupt flower supply

Vendors explained that unseasonal rains have impacted flower cultivation and harvest. "Continuous rains during the harvest period have ruined many crops. Whatever little we manage to bring to market

Traders cite heavy rains as reason for disrupted supply and rotting stock, leading to inflated prices amidst high demand

is often water-damaged and has to be sold the same day," said a flower vendor at KR Market. The supply of jasmine, which usually comes from Tamil Nadu, has been hit due to crop failure there. As a result, Bengaluru is now depending on local growers from Chikkaballapur, Kolar, and surrounding districts. But the reduced supply hasn't been able to meet the skyrocketing demand, resulting in inflated prices.

A costly alternative

Greenhouse-grown flowers, though more durable and less prone to spoilage, have not provided much relief due to their high cost. "These flowers can stay fresh for 2–3 days, but their prices are much steeper," another vendor pointed out. Even with limited availability, greenhouse flowers are commanding a premium in the market.

High fruits prices

Not just flowers, even fruits have become more expensive this season. Seasonal fruits, essential for the Varamahalakshmi puja thali, are being sold at marked-up rates. Yet, city dwellers are determined to go all out to celebrate the festival in full traditional glory.

Inflation fails to dampen festive fervour

In spite of the financial pinch, Bengaluru is all set to welcome Goddess Lakshmi with open arms. Markets are packed, homes are being decorated, and the spirit of devotion remains unshaken. The fragrance of flowers, vibrant colors, and the clinking of puja items are a clear sign — the city is ready for Varamahalakshmi.

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Pedestrians risk lives as footpaths turn death traps

From Whitefield to Hosakerehalli, footpaths are either absent, encroached, or dangerously makeshift, forcing people to walk amid high-speed vehicular traffic

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

(1) Byrappa Layout, Whitefield; (2) Chunchgatta; (3) GM Palya Road; (4) Satya Sai layout Whitefield

The Supreme Court recently affirmed that access to footpaths is a fundamental right of every citizen.

Yet in Bengaluru, this right remains largely denied. Footpaths are routinely encroached upon by street vendors, abandoned or parked vehicles, and construction debris. In several areas, they are entirely missing.

Whitefield, in particular, lacks proper pedestrian infrastructure. Most roads are strewn with garbage and have no footpaths, causing frustration among commuters and residents alike. "There are no proper footpaths except on ITPL Main Road. On all other roads, people are forced to walk on stormwater drains covered with slabs, which is risky. BBMP has widened roads and placed covers over drains, expecting them to serve as walkways. But these do not feel safe, so people walk on the roads instead—resulting in frequent accidents," said a regular commuter in Whitefield. The situation highlights a glaring neglect of pedestrian rights and urban planning.

Residents of RTI Layout in Chunchgatta are another group suffering due to the absence of proper footpaths. Commuters note that, with no BMTC buses operating because of narrow roads, they are forced to walk to the nearest metro station. However, footpaths in the area are riddled with problems.

"I conducted an audit of a one-kilometre stretch along Shivashaktinagar Main Road and found it lined with flower and vegetable carts, eateries, and other shops occupying footpaths. To make matters worse, private vehicles are parked on footpaths on both sides," said Prajna Dutt, a resident of RTI Layout.

GM Palya Road in CV Raman Nagar is another glaring example of why Bengaluru is often called the least walkable city in the country. The footpath constructed over the stormwater drain has been overrun by food stalls. Locals say the road witnesses' heavy traffic, including large vehicles, and pedestrians are frequently seen walking on the road, risking their safety while trying to avoid speeding traffic.

"Earlier, that entire stretch was a strict no-parking zone, but now shops have taken over the footpath. Food trucks and vans are permanently stationed there, making it hazardous for pedestrians," said Raman, a resident of CV Raman Nagar.

Similar footpath issues plague Rajarajeshwari Nagar and Hosakerehalli as well. "The footpaths in Hosakerehalli and Rajarajeshwari Nagar are either narrow or are mostly occupied by street vendors. During the festivals, it gets more crowded and chaotic. Owing to the steep increase in traffic on our streets, pedestrian safety is a major concern in our area. It is particularly dangerous for children, senior citizens, and the specially-abled," said Rachna, a resident of Hosakerehalli.

The Smart City footpaths face a similar fate. Pedestrian walkways in Vasant Nagar also face various issues, such as encroachment by shop owners or construction debris dumped by builders. Experts say the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike has not been following the pedestrian facilities principle by the Indian Roads Congress (IRC).

As per Indian Roads Congress (IRC) guidelines, footpaths must be provided on all streets where vehicular speeds exceed 15 kmph. Walkable footpaths should be safe, continuous, secure, comfortable, and accessible to all, including children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Where footpaths cannot be provided, streets must be traffic-calmed to keep vehicle speeds below 15 kmph, particularly on narrow or crowded local roads. "Roads and footpaths in most cities are designed as per IRC standards, which prioritise pedestrians over private vehicles. If BBMP is truly following IRC norms, why is this priority not being upheld?" questioned civic activist Sandeep Anirudhan.

Gangashetty Lake revival sinks in sewage crisis

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The pathetic and nauseating condition of Gangashetty Lake is a classic example of poor coordination between the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB). In 2022, the BBMP undertook rejuvenation of the lake at an estimated cost of ₹4 crore. Initially, residents and lake activists welcomed the move. However, their joy was short-lived as only sewage, not rainwater, began flowing into the lake. While most Bengaluru lakes were full last year, Gangashetty Lake remained dry. The situation highlights the failure of inter-departmental planning and the continued neglect of the city's water bodies.

Bangalore Mirror had earlier published a story — Too little, too lake — on February 22, 2023, highlighting how residents raised concerns about encroachment around the lake and the absence of rainwater inflow. Despite the media spotlight, authorities failed to act. Again, on November 1, 2024, the paper published Renewed Gangashetty Lake remains troubled, capturing the continued disappointment of Triveni Nagar residents, who lamented the lake's emptiness, contaminated water, and clogged drains even after rejuvenation.

Residents and lake activists continue to blame BBMP officials for their inaction in ensuring proper rainwater flow into the lake and stopping sewage ingress. However, due to poor coordination between BBMP's Lakes Department, the Storm Water Drains Department, and BWSSB engineers, no corrective measures have been taken so far.

Coming down heavily on BBMP, Muniraju M, a resident of Triveni Nagar, said fish were found dead due to sewage entering the lake. "We have repeatedly complained to the Lakes Department to stop sewage inflow, but nothing has been done. What is the point of rejuvenating the lake if sewage continues to pollute it?" he asked.

The quality of water flowing into the lake

Echoing similar concerns, lake activist Balaji Raghotham said complaints have been repeatedly submitted to BBMP, yet no action follows. "Whenever it rains, sewage and dirty water enter the lake through the stormwater drain. Fish deaths due to contamination have been observed several times," he added.

The children's park at Gangashetty Lake also needs urgent attention. Despite lakhs spent on its development, poor maintenance has made it unusable. "There's no caretaker or drainage facility. What's the point of such spending when children can't use it?" asked a resident anonymously.

On Monday, BBMP Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao instructed BBMP and BWSSB engineers to prevent sewage from entering lakes by identifying problem areas and constructing diversion channels. When contacted, BBMP Executive Engineer (Lakes) Nithya said BWSSB must ensure sewage does not enter stormwater drains. "I've informed higher authorities," she said.

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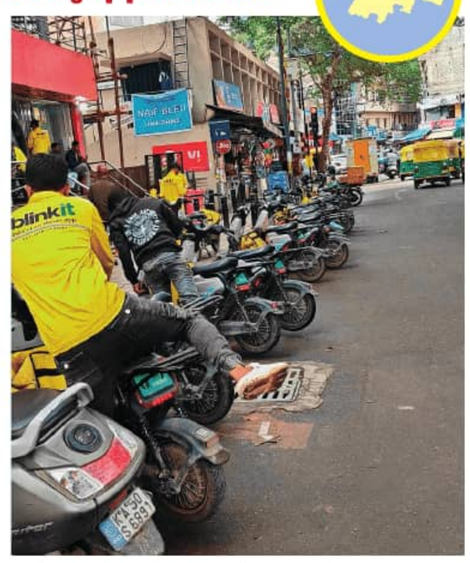

At Nanjappa Circle, nearly 50 two-wheelers now park illegally at the signal, disrupting traffic. This was a no-parking zone until the sign was quietly removed—allegedly due to political interference.

Abandoned vehicle
BVK Lyengar Road

An unattended vehicle has been parked for days on BVK Iyengar Road, a major commercial stretch near Majestic, worsening congestion and causing daily inconvenience to commuters and shopkeepers.

Garbage zone
TD Lane

An abandoned scooter near TD Lane, beside a temple, has been lying unattended for over a year. It has become a garbage dumping site, posing hygiene issues. Immediate action is needed.

Khaki shame: Burglar goes viral

CRIME FILES

Ahead constable from Govindpura Police Station has been suspended for breaching protocol by allegedly sharing a lodge room with a known burglar during an outstation investigation. Head Constable Sonar was probing a burglary case from Indiranagar, where gold ornaments and expensive sarees were stolen. Acting on a tip-off, police tracked the suspects to a car near Pune and took them into custody. Among them was Salim, alias Bombay Salim, a habitual offender with multiple theft cases.

During the investigation, police recovered disturbing videos and photos from Salim's phone. In the footage, he is seen wearing a full police uniform—including the khaki dress and cap—and even video-calling his wife while dressed in it. The material raised serious concerns about access to official gear and internal security.

Salim claimed he wore the uniform when Sonar had stepped out of their shared lodge room outside Bengaluru. Authorities held the constable accountable for negligence and suspended him immediately. The DCP (East) has ordered a departmental inquiry to assess the extent of misconduct and security breach involved in the incident. **–BMB**

Fake sadhus vanish with man's ring

In a bizarre case of deception, four men dressed as sadhus duped a 64-year-old man and fled with his gold ring near Mekhri Circle on Tuesday evening. The incident took place under the jurisdiction of the Sadashivanagar police.

The victim, Manjunath, a resident of Dasarahalli, had just returned from Shivajinagar and got down at the Mekhri Circle BMTC bus stand around 7.15 pm. The four accused had also alighted at the same stop, which was relatively deserted at the time.

According to police reports, the imposters approached Manjunath under the guise of seeking directions to Chikkaballapur. Claiming they were hungry, they asked for money to buy lunch. When Manjunath offered ₹50, they smeared it with vibhuti (holy ash) and returned it. They then applied vibhuti on his forehead and asked to see the contents of his purse, repeating the same ritual with the cash inside.

Gaining his trust with their spiritual act, one of them asked Manjunath to remove his gold ring so it could be "blessed." Believing them, he handed it over. Pretending to perform a ritual, the man placed the ring in his mouth. **–BMB**

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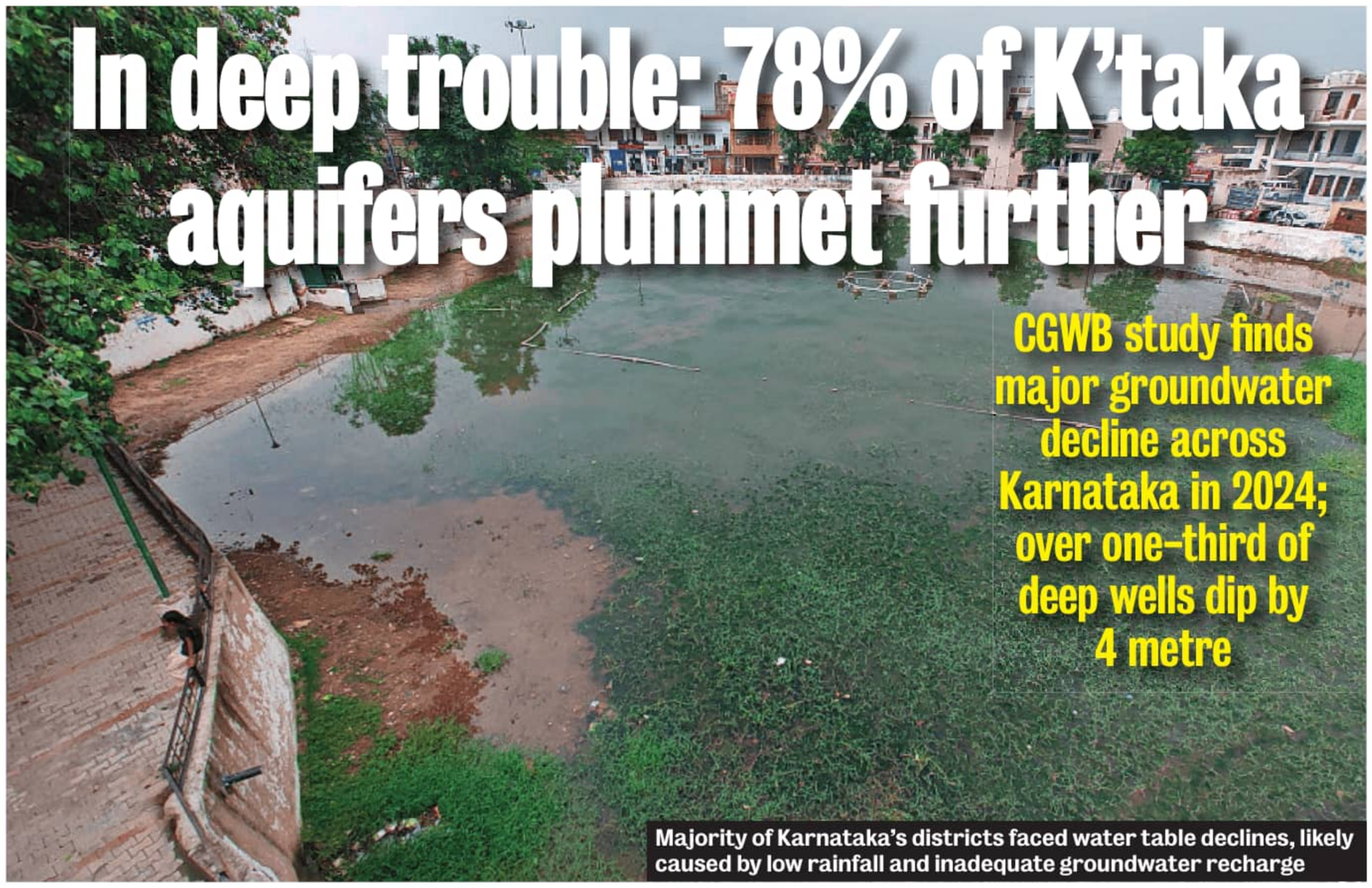
In deep trouble: 78% of K'taka aquifers plummet further

CGWB study finds major groundwater decline across Karnataka in 2024; over one-third of deep wells dip by 4 metre



Majority of Karnataka's districts faced water table declines, likely caused by low rainfall and inadequate groundwater recharge

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Water levels in the majority of deeper aquifers in Karnataka have declined, the Central Groundwater Board (CGWB) has highlighted.

An exclusive analysis of deep aquifer conditions across the state shows a worrying trend: water levels in 78% of these aquifers have dropped further in 2024 compared to 2023. The CGWB's assessment is based on data collected from 589 wells, of which 460 showed a decline in water levels.

The most significant drop more than four metres below ground level was observed in 38% of the wells analysed. This sharp decline was reported in almost all districts except Bidar, Dakshina Kannada, Kodagu, Udupi, and Uttara Kannada. A moderate decline, ranging between two and four metres, was recorded in 21% of the wells, affecting all districts except Dakshina Kannada and Udupi.

> **The water levels in 78% of deeper aquifers have declined across Karnataka, with 38% of wells showing a drop of more than four meters**
>
> –The central Groundwater Board (CGWB) Executive Engineer

A smaller drop of up to two metres was noted in 19% of the wells. Interestingly, this reduction was widespread and observed in all districts except Bangalore Urban, Dakshina Kannada, Haveri, Mysuru, Shivamogga, Tumakuru, and Udupi.

Experts from CGWB attribute the declining groundwater levels to reduced precipitation and inadequate recharge of the aquifers. With changing rainfall patterns and increasing pressure on groundwater for irrigation and domestic use, the situation underscores a growing concern for water sustainability in the state.

However, not all the findings were bleak. The same analysis revealed that 22% of the wells saw a rise in water levels between January 2023 and January 2024. A rise of up to two metres was observed in 17% of the wells. This improvement was reported in several districts, with the exception of Bagalkot, Bangalore Rural, Bangalore Urban, and Haveri.

A more substantial rise in the range of two to four metres was noted in 3% of the wells, particularly in Bagalkot, Belagavi, Chitradurga, Dakshina Kannada, Kalaburagi, Hassan, Kodagu, Kolar, Raichur, Tumakuru, and Udupi. Meanwhile, 2% of the wells recorded a significant increase of more than four metres in districts including Belagavi, Chitradurga, Dakshina Kannada, Kalaburagi, Hassan, Kolar, and Tumakuru.

The CGWB suggests that these improvements may be due to increased rainfall in specific regions or a shift in irrigation methods that allowed more water to seep into the ground.

30,000 striking workers face action

Around 30,000 transport employees across Karnataka who joined Tuesday's strike now face disciplinary action for defying a High Court directive and the ESMA Act. Transport corporations have issued notices seeking explanations for their absence and deducted a day's salary from the striking staff. The protest, led by the KSRTC Joint Action Committee, demanded pending salary hikes and arrears. Despite the court's order to postpone it, the strike went ahead, causing an estimated ₹12 crore revenue loss to the department. –BMB

K'taka pushes for Aerospace corridors

Large and Medium Industries Minister MB Patil has urged Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to establish two aerospace corridors in Karnataka—one in the Bengaluru-Chikkaballapur region and another in either Hubballi-Dharwad or Belagavi. Speaking to the media, Patil said the state is keen on developing its own aerospace hubs and has received a positive response from the Centre. He also pointed out that projects like the Bengaluru Metro are not solely Centre-funded, as state tax contributions are significant. Meanwhile, IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge inaugurated a new centre for AI, cybersecurity, and aerospace technology at Infosys Hubballi. He highlighted Karnataka's leadership in IT exports, its global rank in tech startups, and second position in GST collections among Indian states. –BMB

Devadasi liberation bill gets Cabinet nod

The Karnataka Cabinet on Thursday approved 17 bills, including the Karnataka Devadasi (Prevention, Prohibition, Relief and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2025. The bill seeks to liberate devadasi women from exploitation and empower their children by removing associated social taboos. Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil said the bill aims to create awareness about the practice of dedicating women as devadasis and to rehabilitate affected individuals. A key provision removes the requirement of a father's name in application forms and official documents for devadasis' children. Sons of devadasis can use their own or their mother's name and surname. The bills will likely be tabled in the legislative session starting August 11. –PTI

Volunteers, BBMP erase filth, transform Banashankari footpath

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The entire stretch of 15th Cross, Banashankari 2nd Stage looked like a dumping place for all sorts of waste. Residents were facing a lot of problems due to accumulation of garbage and deteriorating condition of the footpath. They said the footpath of 15th Cross was an eyesore for many years. It was a nuisance and problem not only for the residents but also BBMP authorities. Now, the residents are happy. The reason: A group of volunteers from Youth for Parivarthan and the BBMP authorities have reclaimed the footpath by beautifying it.

What was once a black spot has now become a clean and colourful stretch, thanks to a spirited effort by over 50 volunteers and civic officials. The transformation took place last Sunday, when the team came together to clean up and beautify the compound wall and footpath area of 15th Cross.

The clean-up drive, which began at 7.30 am, saw enthusiastic participation from residents, volunteers from Youth for Parivarthan, BBMP workers, and support from the local MLA's office. Volunteers spent nearly five to six hours removing waste, painting the walls, and restoring the neglected footpath.

Entire stretch of footpath on 15th Cross, Banashankari 2nd Stage wears a whole new look after citizens' and officials efforts

"What was once a filthy black spot in Banashankari 2nd Stage is now a stunning wall of art and pride," said Amith Amarnath, founder-president of Youth for Parivarthan. "With help from BBMP, the local MLA's office and our rockstar volunteers, we cleaned, painted and transformed the space in just a few hours. Real change happens when people show up."

He appreciated the support extended by the residents of 15th Cross, especially their contributions of essential resources like paints, brushes and refreshments. "This event was a classic example of what can happen when local residents, government officials and citizen-driven organisations come together for a shared cause. Instead of waiting or complaining, we chose to act — and with the right support, we found a lasting solution to a problem that had haunted the area for years," he added.

Residents echoed the sentiment, expressing joy and relief. "The footpath was always used to dump garbage. It was a big nuisance. Now, I'm very happy to see it clean and well-maintained," said Kavya Upendra, a long-time resident.

> **This was a classic example of what is possible when local residents, government officials, and citizen-driven organizations come together for a shared cause**
>
> –Amith Amarnath, founder-president, Youth for Parivarthan

Santosh Kumar N, another resident, said the footpath had been in a pathetic state for years. "Now, the compound wall and walkway are clean. I urge everyone not to dump waste here again," he said, thanking those involved in the transformation.

Koushik Dayal, treasurer of Youth for Parivarthan, said he felt content to be part of the initiative. "I've been participating in clean-up drives for the past one-and-a-half years, and I'm proud to have contributed to this one," he said.

Volunteer Calvin Das from Koramangala, who joined the effort, said, "I developed a passion for social work in school. These clean-up drives give me the right platform to contribute to society."

IN HIGH COURT

Stampede report submitted to HC in sealed cover

The Karnataka government on Thursday submitted to the High Court the report of the one-member judicial inquiry commission into the Bengaluru stampede that occurred in May 2025. Advocate General Shashi Kiran Shetty presented the original report in two volumes, along with a summary, in a sealed cover. This submission is in response to a petition filed by M/s DNA Entertainment Network Pvt. Ltd., the event management firm accused in the incident, seeking to quash the report prepared by retired Justice John Michael Cunha. The court had earlier permitted the government to submit the report confidentially.

A division bench of Justice Jayant Banerji and Justice Umesh M Adiga recorded the AG's submission, which included evidence and witness statements. The AG also submitted brief notes and expressed readiness to elaborate further when the matter is heard. The court granted the petitioner's request for adjournment to obtain instructions and posted the matter for hearing on August 11.

Senior advocate B K Sampath, appearing for the petitioner, argued that the Commission exceeded its mandate and denied the petitioner a hearing, in violation of Section 8B of the Commission of Inquiry Act. The AG countered, terming the petition premature and an abuse of legal process. **–BMB**

Human rights rule 6 ultra vires, says HC

The Karnataka High Court has invalidated Rule 6 of the Karnataka State Human Rights Courts Rules, 2006, deeming it unconstitutional and inconsistent with the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993. The rule permitted individuals to directly approach sessions courts, bypassing the mandatory inquiry process by the Human Rights Commission.

Justice S Rachaiah stated that striking down Rule 6 is legally and constitutionally justified, as it improperly expands the 1993 Act's scope by allowing direct court complaints, thereby disrupting legislative intent and infringing upon the domain of central legislation.

The case arose after a respondent arrested in May 2023 on charges including murder and rioting, filed a private complaint in January 2024 before the Vijayapura Human Rights Court. The court directed the SP to investigate, which the petitioners challenged.

The court held that Rule 6 was ultra vires of Section 41 of the Act, quashed the FIR, and clarified that human rights violations must be routed through the Commission. The ruling applies prospectively. **–BMB**

Viral Varthur traffic jam post turns out to be misleading

Social media claim of 4-km traffic jam debunked by officials who say congestion was short, mild, and caused by ongoing BBMP infrastructure work

Sanjana CS
c-sanjana.s@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

A viral social media post on Wednesday morning sparked alarm among residents of East Bengaluru, claiming that a 4-kilometre-long traffic jam had brought the Varthur-Balagere stretch to a complete halt. The post alleged that the gridlock, which began around 7 am, left school children stranded, and commuters stuck for hours. However, a ground check and inputs from Whitefield traffic officials have revealed the claims were exaggerated.

The original post, shared at 8.37 am on 7th August, read: "Mess all around #ORR, Balagere #Tjunction #Scross. 4 km long traffic jams starting morning 7 am, condition of broken @NammaBengaluroo infra #IThub. School going children stuck in traffic. @wftrps @CPBlr @BlrCityPolice." The message gained rapid traction with 158 reposts and a reach of 17.4k. Another popular account reposted the same and added, "Bengaluru's children grow up entangled in traffic snarls, victims of unplanned real estate-mafia-driven development."

While Bengaluru's traffic woes are real, Whitefield traffic police clarified that the Varthur Road to Balagere Road stretch is approximately 1.3 to 2 km long. "How can someone claim a 4-km jam without verifying facts?" asked a traffic official. He explained that the concrete road in the area, once in poor condition, was recently repaired after repeated requests. Its improved condition has attracted more traffic, causing some congestion. "There was slow movement in the morning, but no vehicle crisis or pile-up. We receive traffic data every 15 minutes, and our teams are on ground," the official added.

A citizen posted this picture on Thursday. Police officials said the picture clearly shows that vehicles were moving in the right direction

> **"We're not blaming anyone. It's like two people looking at the same number from different sides—one sees a 6, the other a 9. Both are right in their own way. It's all about perspective**
>
> –police officer

According to official traffic data, congestion began at 7.02 am, covering 348 meters. By 7.16 am, it had increased to 446 meters and remained steady until 7.32 am. By 8 am, traffic had returned to normal. Whitefield police also issued a clarification on social media, stating, "Due to ongoing work, traffic volume is high."

In fact, on 6th August, police had already warned commuters about BBMP's white-topping work between Balagere T-Junction and Panathur Railway Bridge Junction, advising alternative routes. Officials said they regularly update school groups to help bus drivers plan better.

Despite these efforts, frustration among parents remains high. One user wrote, "Sarjapur Road is full of school buses from 7 am to 9.30 and again from 2 to 4 pm. It's chaos." Another posted, "Traffic is everywhere—even Varthur Road tells the same story. What did those poor kids do to deserve this?"

Parents say long travel times are unavoidable if they want better schooling options. Journeys of 45 to 50 minutes are considered normal. Some children reportedly fall asleep in school buses or autos due to early starts and inadequate rest. One user suggested online classes or holidays during rainy days, while another proposed, "Something drastic like lockdown or WFH is needed to stop the influx into Bengaluru."

A Whitefield police officer concluded, "We're not blaming anyone. It's like two people looking at the same number from different sides—one sees a 6, the other a 9. Both are right in their own way. It's all about perspective."

While the area did witness congestion due to infrastructure work near the T-junction, officials stressed it was far from the scale described online. The incident highlights the risk of viral misinformation escalating public panic in a city already battling traffic challenges.

SC moved against HC order lifting media gag

The Karnataka High Court's order lifting a media gag on YouTube channel Kudla Rampage in the Dharmasthala mass burial case has been challenged in the Supreme Court.

Harshendra Kumar D, secretary of the Dharmasthala Temple institutions, approached the apex court seeking removal of allegedly defamatory content targeting the temple's managing family. The matter was mentioned today before Chief Justice of India BR Gavai and Justices Satish Chandra Sharma and Vinod Chandran.

"Around 8,000 YouTube channels are running defamatory content against the Dharmasthala temple," said the counsel. The CJI replied, "I think it's already listed for tomorrow."

The controversy began after a former sanitation worker at the Dharmasthala Manjunathaswamy Temple claimed in a police complaint that he was forced to bury numerous bodies over two decades. Though no one was directly named, media coverage followed. **–BMB**

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Russian girl sings Kannada poem

A video featuring a Russian girl and her Indian classmate singing a Kannada poem while cycling through a Bengaluru neighbourhood has gone viral, charming netizens with its sweet display of friendship and cultural harmony.

Originally shared on Instagram by the Russian girl's mother, the video shows the two young girls' classmates and close friends for over three years cheerfully singing "Bannada Hakki" (Colourful Bird), a beloved Kannada children's poem, as they ride their bicycles side-by-side.

The Instagram post begins with a series of nostalgic photographs from 2022, documenting the girls' friendship since the Russian family moved to India. The clip gained wider traction when it was reshared on Reddit. —BMB

Siddaramaiah backs Rahul Gandhi's claims of 'voter fraud'

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday said that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had exposed, with evidence, widespread voter fraud during the recent Lok Sabha elections and demanded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resignation.

In a post on 'X', Siddaramaiah said the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, has exposed with hard evidence how widespread vote theft took place across India in the recent Lok Sabha elections.

Despite massive public anger, Modi returned to power only through electoral fraud. The documents released by Rahul Gandhi today stand as clear proof, he added.

"Narendra Modi became Prime Minister by misusing the Election Commission, stealing votes, and abusing power. He has no moral right to stay in office. He must resign and dissolve the government immediately," Siddaramaiah demanded.

He vowed that the Congress would raise its voice across the country and expose the BJP's crimes to every citizen.

Giving an example from Karnataka, Siddaramaiah said a six-month investigation was conducted into voter records in Mahadevapura Assembly segment, which falls under the Bengaluru Central Lok Sabha constituency.

"Under the guidance of Shri Rahul Gandhi, a detailed six-month investigation was conducted into the voter records of Mahadevapura Assembly segment, which falls under the Bengaluru Central Lok Sabha constituency. The probe uncovered precise evidence of systematic vote theft," he said.

"In the 2024 Lok Sabha Election, the BJP misused the Election Commission and illegally secured 1,00,250 votes in Mahadevapura — a constituency with just around 3.25 lakh voters — to win the seat," Siddaramaiah said. He said five methods of electoral malpractice were identified in just this one segment.

"A total of 11,965 fake voters are estimated to have cast votes in this constituency. Some individuals voted in multiple polling booths, while others voted not only here but also in other parts of the state and even outside Karnataka. This points to a systematic and deliberate misuse of the electoral process," Siddaramaiah charged.

He added that 40,009 voters were found with fake addresses.

The Chief Minister said, "Thousands of them are registered under non-existent addresses, including many with 'House Number 0', random gibberish entered in place of father's or husband's names, and addresses that simply do not exist."

According to him, 10,452 voters were registered under a handful of addresses.

"In one instance, 80 voter ID cards were issued using the address of a single-bedroom house. In another case, 68 voter IDs listed the address of a private club. Upon verification, it was confirmed that none of the listed voters actually reside there."

Siddaramaiah said 4,132 voter ID cards in the constituency had missing or unclear photographs, yet those individuals were allowed to vote. —PTI

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tender & notices

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My client Mr. GURUPRASAD D N, aged about 40 years, S/o. NARAYAN C residing at # 4266, A Block, 20th Main, 2nd Stage, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560010 has lost the original Sale deed bearing No. NMG-1-05769-2013-14 Dated 06-08-2013 registered at the office of Sub Registrar, Nelamangala.

Public are hereby notified that if any person has found the document, are hereby requested to convey the same to the above mentioned GURUPRASAD D N, or call on his cell No. 9886694580 or Advocate Renuka C, Mob: 93418 31300.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Property at Bangalore Rural District, Nelamangala Taluk, Kasaba Hobla, Arishinakunte village survey number: 96/1, 96/3 & 97 has been converted for residential purposes. Among the sites in Arishinakunte village built on this property - Site number: 117, Account number: 813/ 117, area of the site East-West: 50 feet, North-South: 30 feet, total area 1500 sq feet, Chakkubandi has been allotted to the vacant site: -
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West : road
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South : Site number 118
Date: 07-08-2025
Place: Bangalore
Sd/-
Renuka C, Advocate, No.211, 5th Main Road, Hampi Nagar, RPC Layout, Bangalore-560104., Mob: 93418 31300

NOTICE is hereby given that Share Certificate No(s) 3726, 159990 and 159991 for 154 shares bearing Distinctive Numbers from 34371401 to 34371500 (both inclusive), from 44663243 to 44663292 (both inclusive) and from 44663293 to 44663296 (both inclusive)of folio no S003815 of Timken India Ltd., having its Registered Office at 39-42 Electronic City, Phase-II, Hosur Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India, 560100, registered in the name of Mr Ashutosh Kumar Sinha have been lost.

I, being the claimant, shall be applying to the Company for a re-credit of the lost shares as per rules. Any person having any objection to the re-credit of the shares covered in the said original certificates to the applicant/ claimant is requested to lodge his/her objection thereto with the Company at the above address or with their Registrars C B Management Services (P) Limited.

Rasoi Court, 5th floor, 20, Sir R N Mukherjee Road,Kolkata-700001 in writing, within 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice.

Place: Bengaluru, Karnataka
Date: 05/08/2025
Name and Address of the Applicant: Ashutosh Kumar Sinha, House no 549, IIM Lucknow Campus, IIM Road, Lucknow 226013.

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHASHANK SHARMA S/O SRIGOPAL SHARMA R/O L 1402 Purva Highland, Mallasandra, Holiday Village Road, Off Kanakapura Road, Vtc: Bangalore South Po: Konanakunte, District: Bengaluru, State: Karnataka - 560062 have changed the name of my minor son ARIN SHARMA aged 3 years and he shall hereafter be known as RUDRAKSHA SHARMA. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

I PUSHPABEN Marshal Candy w/o Marshall Candy r/o B 801 Kolte Patil ITOWERS EXENTE Apartments Electronic City Bengaluru Karnataka 560100 ,have changed my name to PUSHPA CANDY for all purposes

I, AYISHA BI Alias ASHA BI, No 15, 6th Cross, Jayanagar 1st Block, Bangalore-560011, I hereby declare that my correct name as AYISHA BI vide affidavit dated 05/08/2025 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

I Gaurav Jithendra Goyal S/O, Jithendra Goyal R/o No 1658 , Shanthi Sadan , 15th Main , 31st Cross , Banashankari 2nd Stage , Bangalore 560070 Karnataka have changed my name to Gaurav Goyal .

I SYED SANAULLA SYED ZAHEER S/o Syed Zaheer R/o No 86 17th Cross 9th Main Padarayanapura Bangalore 560026 have changed my name to SYED SANA ULLA for all Purposes

I, K. SANGEETHA R/o # 104, DS Max Keerthi apts, Mallappa Lyt, Babusapalya, Bengaluru 560043 have changed my name to SANGEETHA KRISHNAKUMAR PRABHAKARAN. I shall be called by this name for all purpose.

I Marshal Cassian Candy s/o Cassian Candy - ro B 801 Kolte Patil ITOWERS EXENTE Apartments, Electronic City, Bengaluru Karnataka 560100, have changed my name to MARSHALL CANDY for all purposes.

I Anil Vinod Naik S/O, Vinod N Naik R/o House No.1806 Vinod Watch Works Habbuwada Karwar Dist-Uttara Kannada State-karnataka Pin-381306 have changed my name to Anil Naik.

I Shivkumar Rajashekar S/O, Rajasekhar.b R/o N0-15/48,cambridge Road, Halasuru,hal 2nd Stage Post, Bengaluru-56008 have changed my name to Shivkumar Rajasekhar.

I Naidile Kumar W/O, Shivkumar Rajasekhar R/o N0-15/48,cambridge Road, Halasuru,hal 2nd Stage Post, Bengaluru-560008 have changed my name to Naidile Shivkumar.

I Afsalunnisa W/O, Mohiyuddin Pasha Delvi R/o No 19 4th Main Rahmath Nagar Rt Nagar Bangalore 560032 have changed my name to Afzalunnisa.

I Shakunthala W/O, Krishna Murthy M R/o # 67, 4th Main Road, A D Block, Srirampuram, Bangalore 560021 have changed my name to Sakuntala S.

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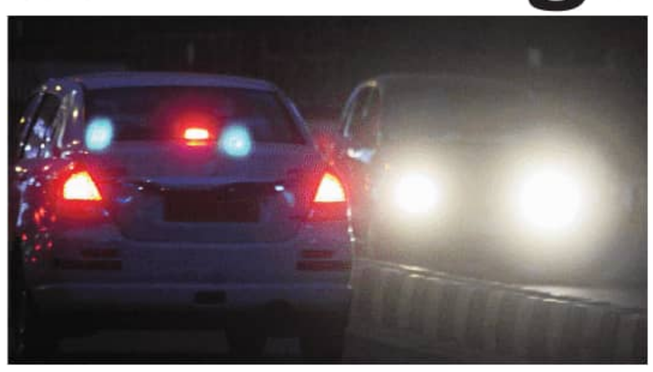


CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

SUVs, cabs join bandwagon

From premium SUVs and taxis, such LED modifications are becoming common in Bengaluru. These flashing red-blue lights mimic those on emergency vehicles and are misused by drivers to weave through traffic, often startling or dazzling others. "One can find dozens of such vehicles on the road. Even cabs use red-blue flashlights to clear their path," another user commented on X.

Police officials said such lighting setups are illegal. "Red and blue lights are strictly reserved for emergency and law enforcement vehicles. Anyone else using them will face strict action," an officer told BM.

Though there's no detailed public list of permissible headlight specifications, the Central Motor Vehicles Rules are clear. Rule 106 requires headlights to be aligned downward to avoid dazzling others. The lights must be adjustable and capable of being dimmed or turned off when needed and Rule 138(5) prohibits halogen bulbs with P45t caps, restricting wattage to 70/75 watts (24V) or 60/65 watts (12V).

Despite these rules, violations are rampant. In a special drive earlier this year, over 8,000 vehicles across Karnataka were booked for high-beam or illegal LED usage in just one week, 3,000 of them in Bengaluru. Between July 1 and July 10, 2024, alone, more than 4,000 vehicles in the city were fined for using glaring headlights.

While the recent case was resolved quickly, commuters are urging the police to conduct regular checks and crackdowns on vehicles using such illegal modifications. These lights may seem like a small tweak to vehicle owners, but for those facing them on the road, they're a serious risk.

"Red and blue lights are strictly reserved for emergency and law enforcement vehicles. Anyone else using them will face strict action —Police officer

 # The big race
Actor Ajith Kumar, who recently completed 33 years in the film industry, has now welcomed driving ace Narain Karthikeyan onboard his international car racing team Ajith Kumar Racing

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Shooting completed

A team of newcomers has completed the shooting of the film Maththe Male Hoyyuththide (It is Raining Again). The movie is bankrolled by Gangadhar, who has been associate art director for more than three decades in Sandalwood. He bankrolled the movie on behalf of his wife Suma under the Sri Gaviranganatha Swamy Pictures banner. Param Gubbi handled the megaphone while Kabbadi Narendra Babu wrote the screenplay, dialogues and lyrics.

G Likith, son of the producer, and Jayavardhan, a theatre artiste, play the lead roles while Sulaksha Khaira and Bhumika Gowda are paired opposite them. Gubbi said the movie is based on the novel – Maththe Male Hoyyuththide – written by K Sadashiva. "We contacted K Sadashiva's daughter, who lives in the USA, for permission to adapt the novel for this film. We have decided to establish an award in memory of Sadashiva," the director said. He said the movie is set in between 1980 and 2000. "The movie has two pairs of lovers. The love affair of the first pair ends up in a breakup while the second pair lead a happy married life," he said.

Many roles

Kamal Raj, known for Suit that was released in May 2024, has announced the launch of three movies – Mohabbat Zindabad, Task, and Naale Namma Bharavase, under the Kamal Films banner. Kamal, apart from bankrolling the movies, is acting in the three movies. Around 10 directors will helm Naale Namma Bharavase and Kamal is expected to play 50 characters in the movie. Posters of the three movies were unveiled in the presence of Priyanka Upendra, Dr V Nagendra Prasad, and Umesh Banakar.

"I am playing 50 characters in Naale Namma Bharavase that has 75 scenes. Mohabbat Zindabad is a Hindi movie, and it has 14 songs. Some Bollywood actors are acting in the movie, and it will be dubbed into Kannada. The shooting of the three movies is in progress. I am planning to release these movies by December," said Kamal Raj.

He said that he financed around 40 Kannada movies. "I am playing a lover boy and detective in my forthcoming movies. The movie Task is being directed by five directors and veteran director Om Sai Prakash is among them," he said.

Director Om Sai Prakash said that audiences have begun watching Kannada movies at theaters. "Kamal has joined hands with me to release my movie September 10. He is known for success in the real estate business. Now, he wants to do something in Sandalwood," he said. Priyanka Upendra appreciated Kamal Raj for his plan to build around 200 mini theatres in the state to screen Kannada movies. "I am excited to know that Kamal Raj is playing 50 characters in a movie," she said.

Let people breathe

Rashmika shares thoughts on constant negativity directed at her

Rashmika Mandanna has faced considerable criticism and trolling throughout her career. From a youthful broken engagement to a relationship that was rumoured but never officially acknowledged, as well as the roles she selects, she has been the target of much speculation. Recently, she has talked openly about the negativity directed at her.

During her appearance on Snap With Stars, Rashmika expressed that she hesitates to openly display her true emotions because in today's world, kindness is often misunderstood. She stated, "I know that I am a very emotional person and a very real person. At the same time, I can't really show it out because people think kindness is fake, kindness is weakness, they say she's doing it for the cameras. The more real you are, the more unacceptable it becomes."

Mandanna revealed that after experiencing a significant amount of trolling and negative press, she has learned that success doesn't require bringing others down. As she shared, "I've dealt with a lot of negative PR and trolling. If you can't be kind, then just don't say anything. Let people breathe. Why do you have to suffocate people? Why do you have to strangle people to grow? No, let all of us grow. It's fine. The world's so big, there's room for all of us."

She also expressed a feeling of being trapped in a repetitive cycle where she tries to heal from negativity, only to encounter it once more. **— ETimes**

New York notes

Actress Alaya F, on Thursday, took to social media to share a heartfelt note about her deep emotional connection with New York City. She called it both "heartwarming" and "heart-wrenching." Reflecting on her latest trip, she expressed how the city continues to impact her in meaningful ways. In her post, the actress revealed that every visit brings about a subtle transformation in her, and this particular trip was especially significant.

Taking to her Instagram handle, Alaya posted a series of her photos and captioned it, "New York is always heartwarming and heartwrenching for me.. No matter how long I stay, I always crave just one more day. I don't know how to explain it, but it's almost like the city calls me back when I need it the most. Something in me always shifts in New York and I always return home a little transformed. This trip was so so special and I can't wait for the city to call me back again."

In the images, the 'Jawaani Jaaneman' actress is seen striking poses against stunning backdrops. She also offered a glimpse into her meals during the trip. One of the photos features Alaya posing in a bikini, adding to the vibrant vacation vibe. **—IANS**

Praise to co-stars

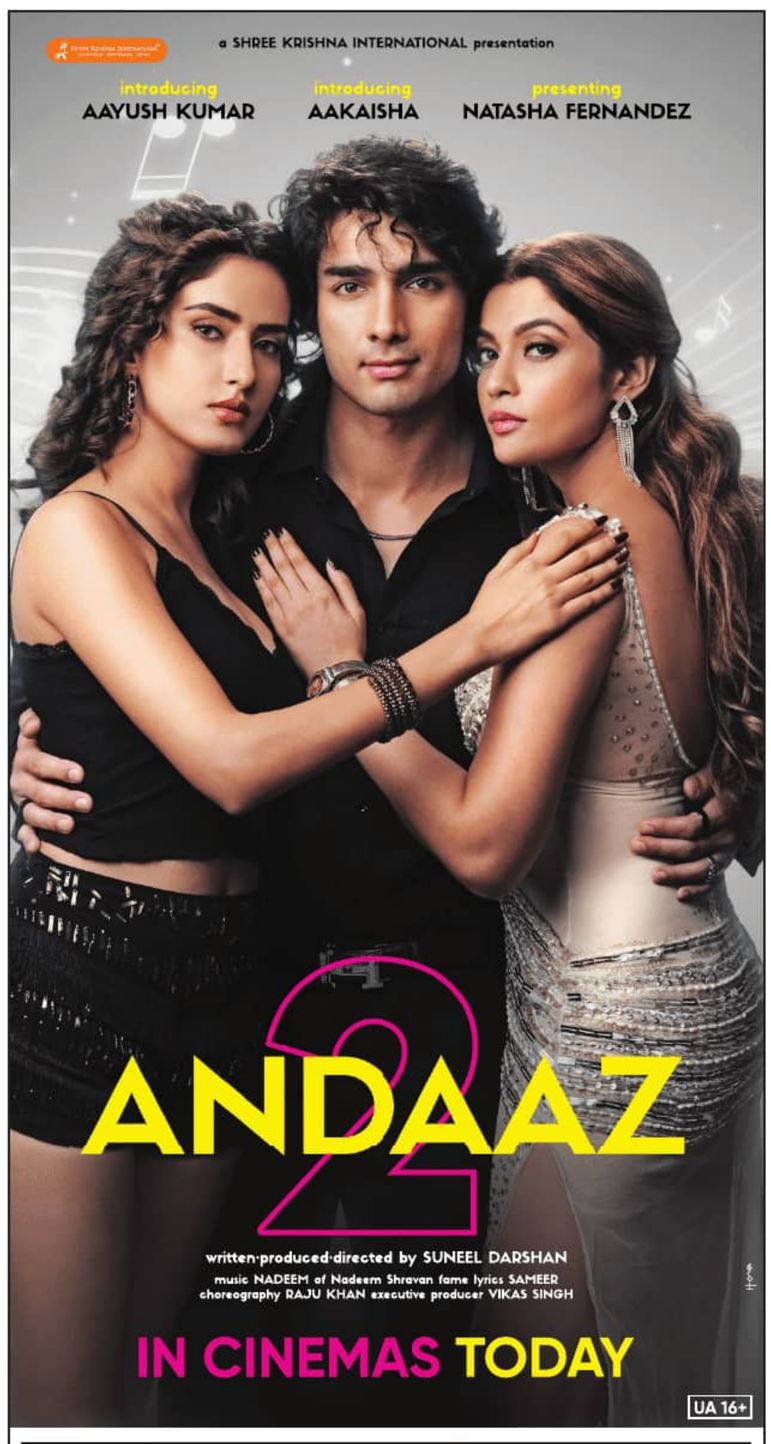
Hollywood star Catherine Zeta-Jones has heaped praise on actress Jenna Ortega, describing her co-star as "amazing".

The 55-year-old actress, who stars alongside Jenna in the new season of Wednesday, told People: "We did rehearse it. It's like choreography and stunts. "You know, we have to be careful. These are real weapons we're working with."

The actress observed that Ortega made time in her busy schedule so that they could prepare properly for the scene.

The actress - who plays Morticia Addams on the hit Netflix show - said: "She'd find time in her schedule, which is a much bigger schedule than mine, to come and rehearse with me, and then we worked it with the stunt coordinator, and it turned out really fabulous."

She has also praised Luis Guzman, who plays Gomez Addams, for his pre-shoot preparations. The duo teamed-up to perform a tango, and Catherine revealed that Luis "just really worked hard," reports femalefirst.co.uk. **—IANS**



PVR — FORUM MALL - Koramangala : 2.25 pm | ORION MALL - Yashwantpur :10.30 pm | VAISHNAVI MALL - Yashwantpur : 7.05 pm | BHARTIYA CINEMA -Thanisandra : 12.30 pm | VEGA CITY - Bannerghatta Road : 9.55 am & 6.25 pm | REGALIA - Nagawara : 7.15 pm | MARKET CITY - Devandra : 10.20 pm | VR MALL : 3.45 pm | REX DIRECTOR CUT - M.G. Road : 12.00 pm | GLOBAL MALL - Nayandahali : 2.05 pm | SUPERFLEX -FORUM MALL -Kanakapura Road :10.00 pm | FORUM MALL - Mysore : 9.45 pm | FORUM FIZA MALL - Manglore : 9.45 pm.

INOX — GARUDA MALL - Magrath Road : 10.00 pm | MANTRI MALL- Malleshwaram 10.00 pm | VALUE MALL- Whitefield : 1.00 pm | MALL OF ASIA - Airport Road : 5.05 pm.

cinépolis — ROYAL MEENAKSHI : 1.50 pm | SHANTINIKETAN - ITPL Whitefield : 3.30 pm | SHOBHA LULU MALL : 1.10 pm | ETA - NAMMA MALL - Binnypet : 4.10 pm .

GOPALAN CINEMAS — INNOVATION MALL : 4.45 & 10.00 pm | SIGNATURE MALL : 10.00 am & 7.30 pm

Bharath Cinemas — Opp Bejai KSRTC 3.00 pm.

INNOVATIVE MULTIPLEX — Marath Halli : 10.00 am, 1.05, 3.00 & 9.20 pm.

NEW FANGLED — M.G.Road : 11.30 am & 4.30 pm

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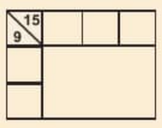
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

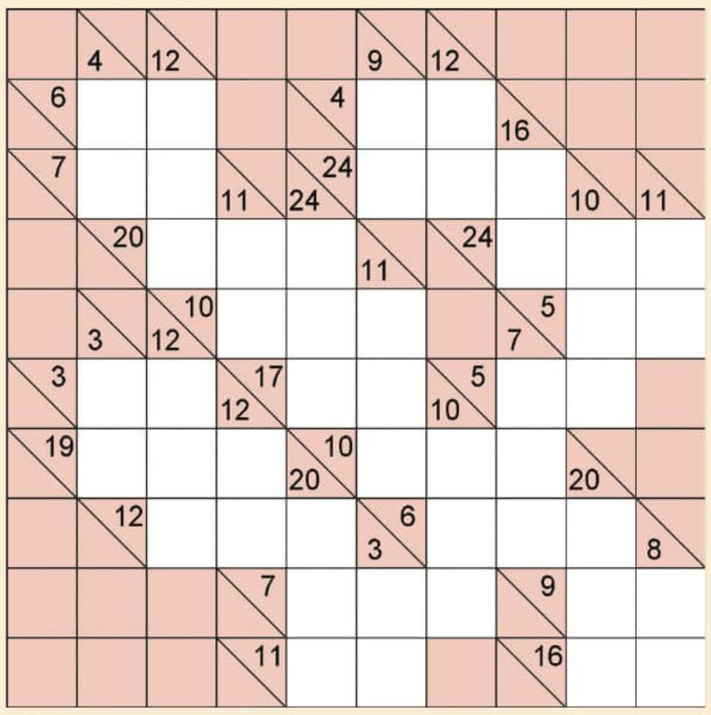
(45 / 225)^-0.5 = ?

Kakuro

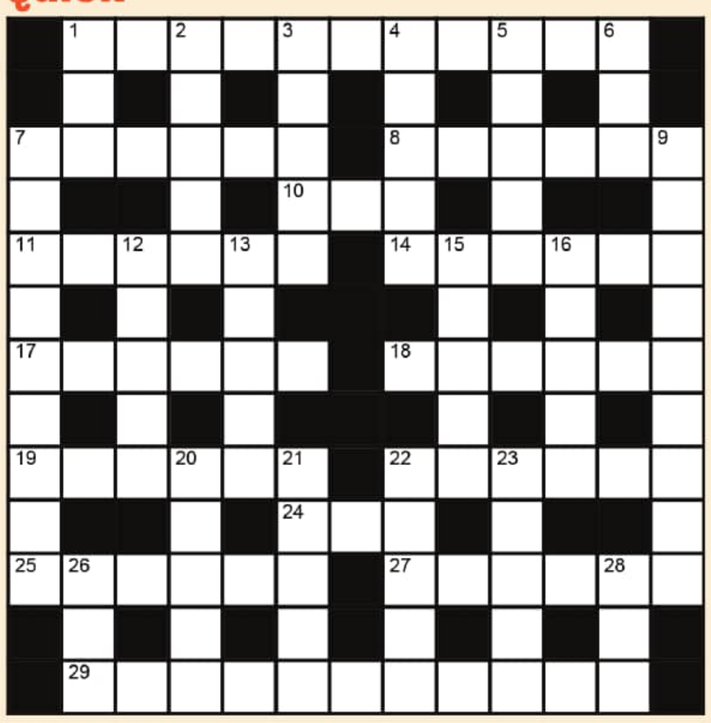
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Bequest (11)
7 Monkey-like (6)
8 Economic improvement (6)
10 U.S. Govt. Uncle ___ (3)
11 Muddle, perplex (6)
14 A person of not so good a character? (3,3)
17 Buries or entombs (6)
18 Yon's partner? (6)
19 Modernise (6)
22 Papal ambassador (6)
24 Prefix meaning "life"? (3)
25 Ketchup is made from it (6)
27 Well in the past (6)
29 Forecasting the ultimate destiny of the world (11)

DOWN

1 Pakistan's intelligence agency (3)
2 Japanese poem (5)
3 Wash; clean (5)
4 Tom's digit? (5)
5 Well-known or famous (5)
6 Go wrong (3)
7 Nickname (9)
9 National park home to many tigers and elephants (9)
12 Subdued (5)
13 Walk pompously (5)
15 Farewell (5)
16 Moral values (5)
20 Texas mission ? (5)
21 Deadly African disease (5)
22 In a brave or courageous manner (5)
23 Period of dark (5)
26 Egg cells (3)
28 No obj. cert. (3)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: A EQUALS P

APUABP QRU MPYDEM EPTCID-BVCW VE DEW JVCTDCVUE DIP TJTDBBW EUC EPTCIDB FTC VE ODLUTI UO CRP JCDCTJ GTU.

Linemaro

Hi, I'm Mr Right, someone told me you are looking for me

Mindchow

We waste time looking for the perfect lover, instead of creating the perfect love

Joke of the day

Miser: A man who, before sending his pajamas to the laundry, stuffs a sock in each pocket

Loop

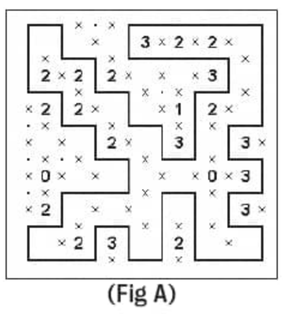
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

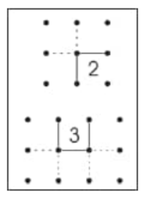
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

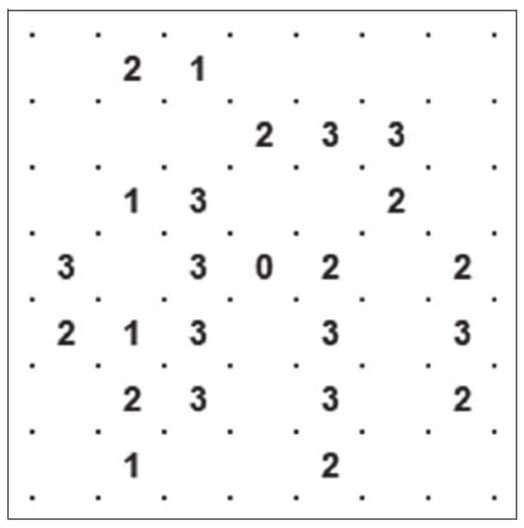
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



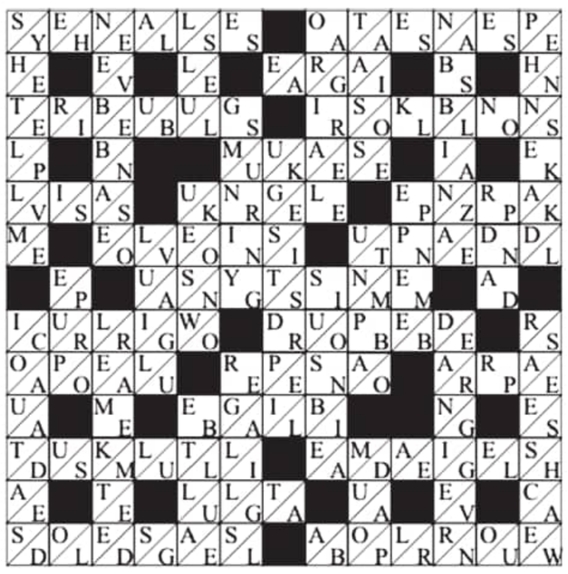
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



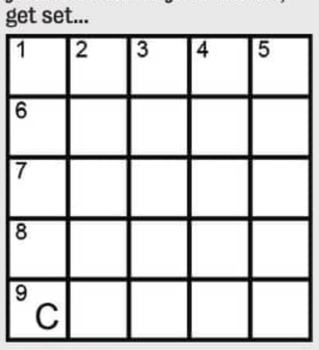
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

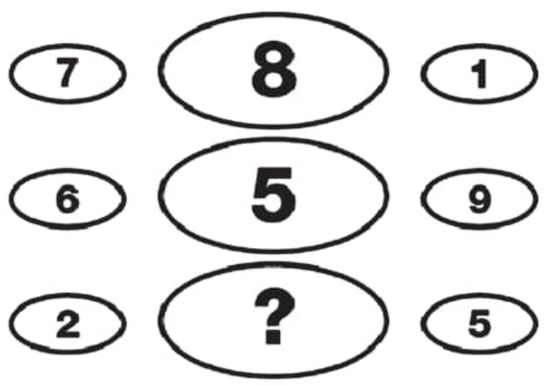
1 A Nasa; 6 Pun us;
7 Birds; 8 Bam II;
9 Scaly

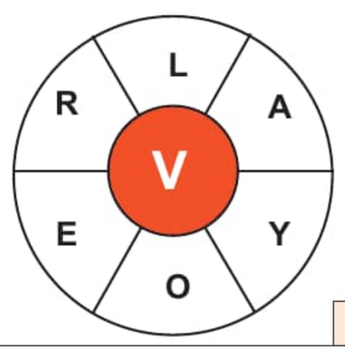
DOWN

1 Cadis; 2 A slur;
3 Amnia; 4 By bun;
5 I pass

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?





Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

14 Average; **16** Good; **18** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

4								7
		5	7		6	9		
	6		4		3		5	
3		8		4		7		6
			9		2			
5		1		8		2		4
	7		3		9		8	
		4	2		1	3		
6								2

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

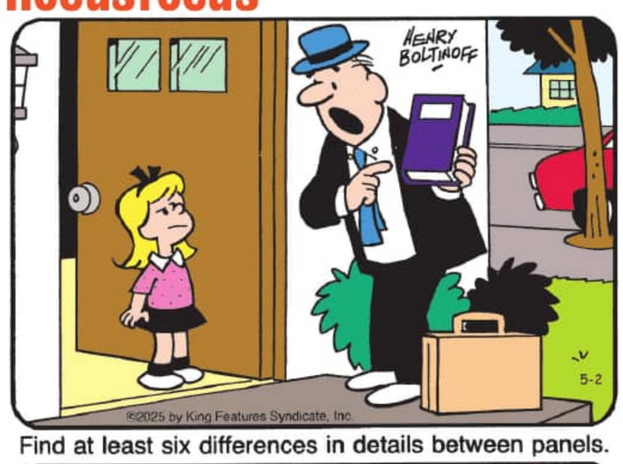
Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 11
1 2 4 6

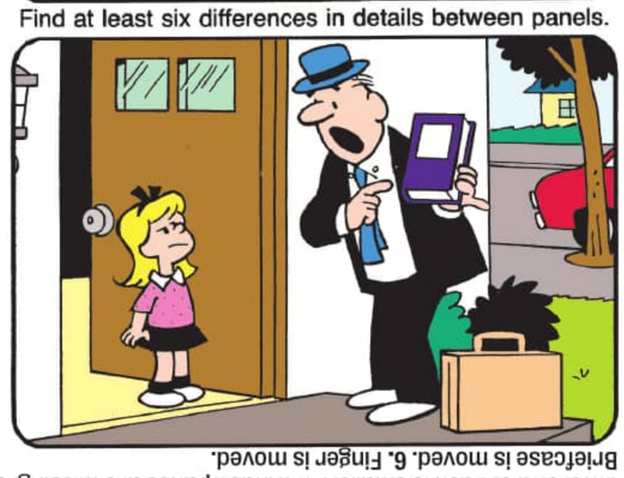
Medium = 4
2 6 7 7

Hard = 5
2 3 5 5

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



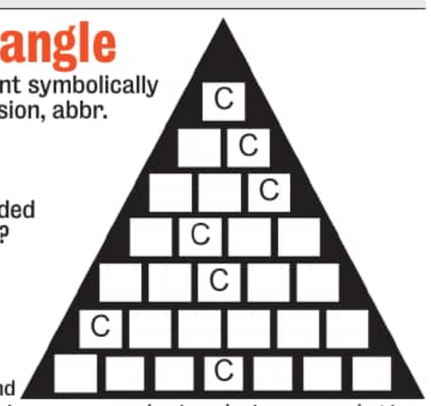
Differences: 1. Door is not as wide. 2. Book cover is different. 3. Bush is smaller. 4. Windowpanes are missing. 5. Briefcase is moved. 6. Finger is moved.

Riddler

You are given five words and five definitions. Each of the words can be anagrammed into a two word phrase that fits one of the definitions. Your task is to assign each definition to its corresponding word. Words: archery, cavalier, foresight, tourniquet, watercress Definitions:
1) an equine donated as a present,
2) covert military conflicts,
3) newton-meter or pound-foot,
4) to perceive a wail &
5) volcanic grain

Alpha triangle

1 Diamond's element symbolically
2 Election Commission, abbr.
3 Last mo.
4 Chilled
5 Chopped finely
6 Gently reprimanded
7 Left in the lurch ?

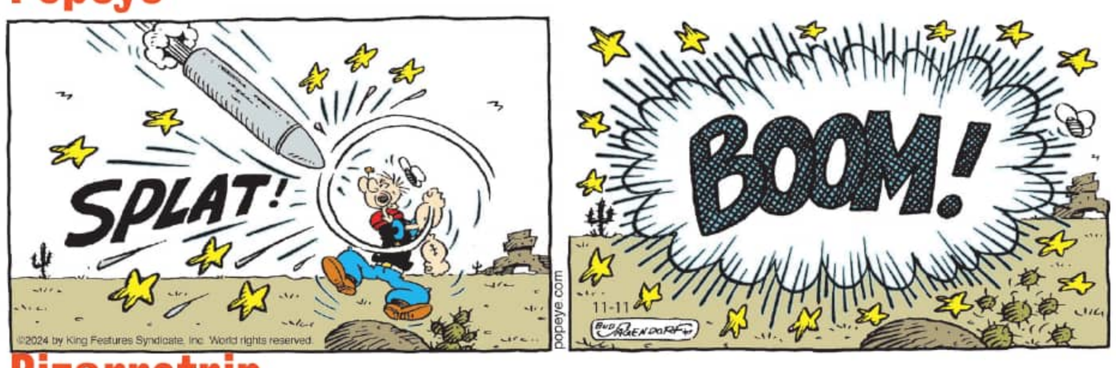


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

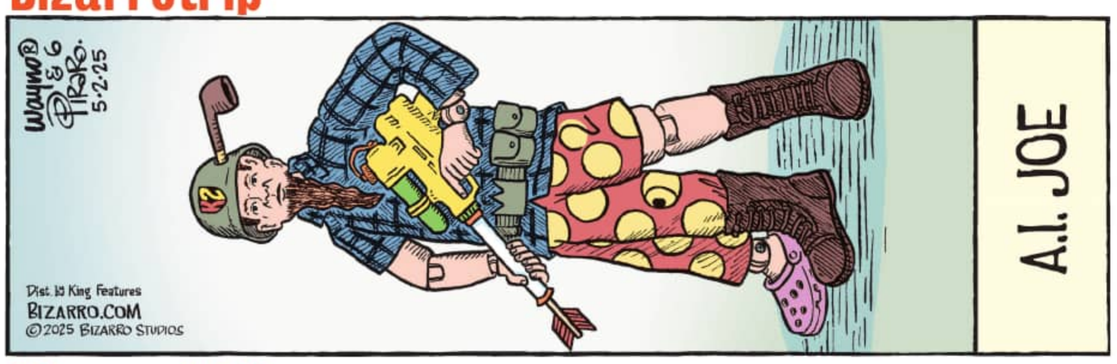
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye

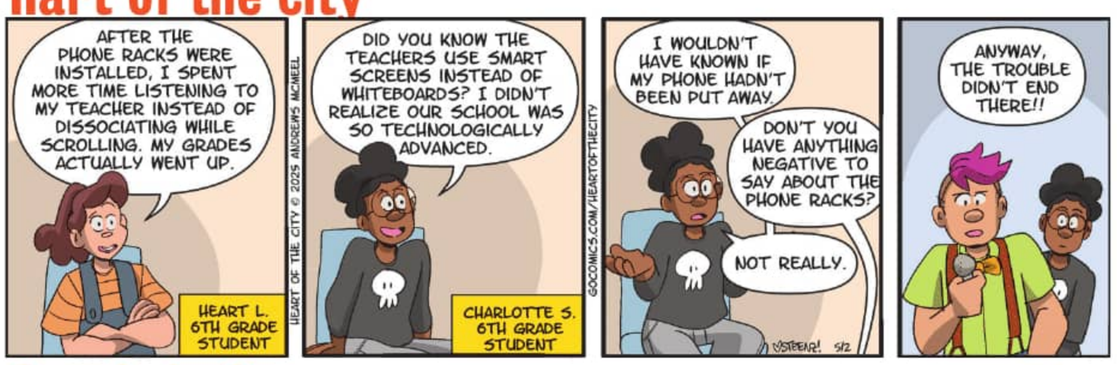


Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil

Hart of the city


AFTER THE PHONE RACKS WERE INSTALLED, I SPENT MORE TIME LISTENING TO MY TEACHER INSTEAD OF DISSOCIATING WHILE SCROLLING. MY GRADES ACTUALLY WENT UP.
HEART L. 6TH GRADE STUDENT
DID YOU KNOW THE TEACHERS USE SMART SCREENS INSTEAD OF WHITEBOARDS? I DIDN'T REALIZE OUR SCHOOL WAS SO TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED.
CHARLOTTE S. 6TH GRADE STUDENT
I WOULDN'T HAVE KNOWN IF MY PHONE HADN'T BEEN PUT AWAY.
DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING NEGATIVE TO SAY ABOUT THE PHONE RACKS?
NOT REALLY.
ANYWAY, THE TROUBLE DIDN'T END THERE!!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

IT LOOKS LIKE I'VE CERTAINLY GOT A LOT OF GREAT BOOK TITLES HERE!...
MURDER by BOOKEND
MURDER on the BOOK TOUR
MURDER at the AIRPORT BOOK KIOSK
MURDER at the BOOK CONVENTION
MURDER by BOOK CRITIC
MURDER on the ZOOM PANEL
MURDER by TRADE
NOW ALL I NEED IS FOR SOMEONE TO WRITE ALL OF THE BOOKS!
Murder at the Bookstore Burning
L. McKenzie
5-2
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BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

SHELTER STORIES
ANDY
I'M AFRAID TO OPEN MY EYES. I'M AFRAID YESTERDAY WAS ALL A DREAM AND I'LL WAKE UP AND STILL BE IN THE SHELTER
SIGH... OKAY, I'VE GOT TO OPEN THEM. HERE GOES... ONE... TWO... THREE!
5-2
mutts.com
www.kingfeatures.com

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, the Moon brings positive energy into your life. You'll enjoy harmony in both your personal and professional relationships. Your polite demeanor may help you complete tasks smoothly. New sources of income may arise, boosting your savings. You might also plan to renovate your home or office space.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Thanks to the Moon's blessings, work will feel rewarding today. Your efforts may be recognized, enhancing your social standing. However, mental exhaustion from overwork might keep you from attending family events. On a positive note, any health concerns related to your parents are likely to improve.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
With the Moon favoring you today, satisfaction at work is likely. You may plan a short business trip or even consider overseas travel. A visit to a spiritual or religious place could bring inner peace. Guidance from elders may help you find clarity regarding your life goals.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
You may feel low or anxious today. Try to maintain calmness and avoid speaking harshly. Financial recovery could be delayed, and adventure trips should be avoided. Students are advised to study thoroughly to achieve success.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
A positive Moon fills your day with joy. Domestic harmony will uplift your spirits. You may meet an influential person who brings career opportunities. Expect recognition or even promotion at work. Family property disputes may also move toward resolution.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today looks promising as the Moon supports your focus and health. Your performance at work may be excellent, earning praise and added responsibilities. Legal matters may bring favorable news. You're also likely to overcome competition and business rivals successfully.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Your intellectual side shines today. You'll recognize the value of mental assets and manage your temper effectively. This self-control may help maintain a smooth work flow and generate steady income. Be cautious with new asset investments. Spending on loved ones may bring happiness. Romantic relationships flourish.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
The Moon's negative influence may bring a sense of burden. You may rush tasks and make errors, leading to delays and reduced productivity. Business projects might get postponed. Seek professional advice before making key decisions to avoid setbacks.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
The Moon blesses your day with positive energy. You may receive good news from siblings and enjoy quality time with loved ones. Creativity may inspire home or office renovations. Collaborating with family members could lead to successful new ventures. Team support will help you meet work goals.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
You may feel emotionally unstable today. Incomplete tasks and mood swings could test your patience. Minor mistakes might affect your work efficiency. Misunderstandings could arise in romantic relationships. Try to manage expectations and take care of your parents. Students may struggle with concentration.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Positive lunar energy brings peace and joy today. You'll perform efficiently at work, and colleagues may support your decisions. A new business venture with help from siblings or networking could be successful. Ensure you get enough rest to maintain your energy levels.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
With the Moon in a negative position, you may feel detached from responsibilities. Overspending on unnecessary items might disturb the peace at home or the workplace. Stay alert to hidden enemies or rivals. Read all documents carefully before signing anything to avoid problems.

KIDZONE

Vashyish, Bengaluru

Adrian, Bengaluru

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SOLUTIONS

RIDDLER archery: to perceive a wall (hear cry), cavalier: volcanic grain (lava rice), foresight: an equine donated as a present (gift horse), tournuget: newton-meter or pound-foot (torque unit) & watercress: covert military conflicts (secret wars)

SOLVE IN 1M √(225 / 45) = √5

QUOTE UNCODE People who demand neutrality in any situation are usually not neutral but in favour of the status quo.

FAST FIVE

A	S	A	N	A
S	U	N	U	P
D	R	I	B	S
I	A	M	B	I
C	L	A	Y	S

STRIKE OUT

S	H	E	L	L	S		A	T	E	A	S	E
H		V		E		A	G	A		B		N
E	R	E	B	U	S		R	O	L	L	O	N
L		N		U	K	E	E	S		A		E
V	I	S		K	N	E		E	Z	R	A	
E		O	V	E	N	S		U	P	E	N	D
	P		A	N	Y	T	I	M	E		A	
C	U	R	I	O		R	O	B	E	D		S
O	P	A	L		R	E	N	O		A	P	E
A		M		B	A	L	I		G			E
T	U	M	U	L	I		A	D	A	G	E	S
E		E		U	L	T		U		E		A
D	O	D	G	E	S		B	O	R	R	O	W

QUICK

												C
											T	I
										L	Y	P
									C	A	L	
								P	O	C		
								A				
							V		M			
						T	O	M	A	T	O	
					B	I	O					E
				L								
			B	I	O		N	U	N	C	I	O
		L										
U	P	D	A	T	E							
Q			E		U							
I	N	T	E	R	S		H	I	T	H	E	R
R		U		T		D		T		H		A
B	E	M	U	S	E		B	A	D	E	G	G
O		K		S	A	M		E				A
S	I	M	I	A	N		U	P	T	U	R	N
	S		A		I		H		O		R	
I	N	H	E	R	I	T	A	N	C	E		

MENSA PUZZLE
5. Working through the diagram in rows, find the difference between the left and right hand values, then add 2 to give the value in the central space.

BULL'S EYE aver, lave, LAVOVER, love, lover, oval, ovary, over, OVERLAY, overly, rave, ravel, rove, vale, vary, veal, very, vole

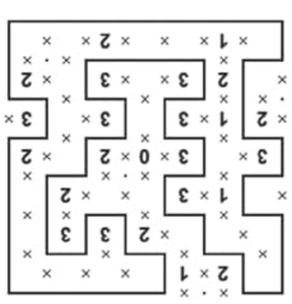
SUDOKU

4	1	3	5	9	8	6	2	7
2	8	5	7	1	6	9	4	3
9	6	7	4	2	3	8	5	1
3	2	8	1	4	5	7	9	6
7	4	6	9	3	2	5	1	8
5	9	1	6	8	7	2	3	4
1	7	2	3	6	9	4	8	5
8	5	4	2	7	1	3	6	9
6	3	9	8	5	4	1	7	2

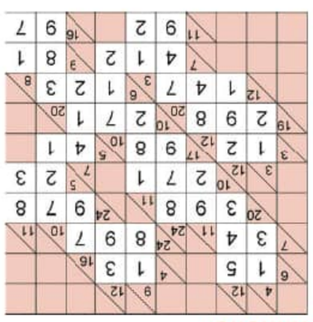
ALPHA TRIANGLE
C, EC, Dec, Iced, Diced, Chided, Ditched.

GO FIGURE
Easy
6 + 4 + 2 − 1 = 11
Medium
6 − 7 − 2 + 7 = 4
Hard
5 x 2 + 5 / 3 = 5

LOOP



KAKURO



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ಈ ಆಫರ್ ಬೋಳಾಸ್ ಸ್ಟೋರ್ಸ್ ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 2025ರ ಆಗಸ್ಟ್ 8 ಮತ್ತು 9ರಂದು ಮಾತ್ರ ಮಾನ್ಯ.
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ಷರತ್ತುಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಗಳು ಅನ್ವಯವಾಗುತ್ತವೆ. | ಆಫರ್ ಸ್ಟಾಕ್ ಇರುವವರೆಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಮಾನ್ಯವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. | ಮೊದಲ 100 ಗ್ರಾಹಕರಿಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಆಫರ್ ಲಭ್ಯ. | ಸ್ಟೋರ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಖರೀದಿ ಮಾಡಲು ಮಾತ್ರ. | ಪ್ರತಿ ಗ್ರಾಹಕ ಒಮ್ಮೆಮಾತ್ರ ಆಫರ್ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು | ದುರುಪಯೋಗದ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊಡುಗೆ ನಿರಾಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಅಡಳಿತ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದೆ
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